UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1996/228
28 March 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the cease-fire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 18 October 1995 and 20 March 1996, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Iranian violations of the cease-fire and the 1991 Tehran agreement between 18 October 1995 and 20 March 1996

1. 18 October 1995

At 1930 hours an Iranian fibreglass patrol boat with three armed men on board intercepted an Iraqi fishing boat in the Riyadiyah area at coordinates 417540. They took the boat and its owner, the fisherman Yunus Abd Ja'far, to the Iranian side.

2. 2 December 1995

At 1030 hours the Iranian side, using blocks and corrugated iron roofing materials, proceeded to build two monitoring posts 2 metres high and 1.5 metres across, one over the position at coordinates 901180 and the other over that at coordinates 910180.

3. 14 December 1995

At 1200 hours the Iranian customs post opposite Ra's al Bayshah detained one of our naval vessels and a tug belonging to the Iraq Port Authority when they were leaving the Shatt al-Arab for Umm Qasr.

4. 21 December 1995

The citizen Jawwad Kazim Qasim was fired upon by an Iranian patrol while he was fishing in the Shatt al-Arab in the Shahiniyah area. He was taken to the Saddam Teaching Hospital in Basra

5. 29 December 1995

At 1130 hours the Iranian side installed a PKC machine-gun in its position at coordinates 5745 (southern Majnun).

At the same time a military Land Cruiser vehicle was seen carrying two officers and eight men armed with GC rifles and a PKC at coordinates 6232. On 4 January 1996 the Iranian side built a hut near the same location.

6. 15 March 1996

At 0800 hours two Iranian helicopters were seen flying over the Iranian units at coordinates 6727 in front of the Shayb post, about 1,000 metres from the international boundary.

7. 20 March 1996

At 0820 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen landing behind the hills at coordinates 035937 in front of the Tib post, 1 kilometre from the international boundary.

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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 March 1996, addressed to you by Mr. Abd al-Ghani Abd al-Ghafur, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 28 March 1996 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to an article published in the 26 March 1996 issue of the British newspaper The Independent and written by its correspondent Patrick Cockburn, reporting statements of an agent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency who admitted to planning the explosion of car bombs in Baghdad and Salah al-Din as well as other regions of Iraq, on direct instructions from the Central Intelligence Agency.

This information confirms once again the involvement of United States official agencies in flagrant terrorist activities against the people of Iraq in a desperate attempt to disrupt peace and stability in the country and to interfere in its internal affairs with a view to causing harm to its national authority. Such operations reveal beyond the shadow of a doubt the deceit and falsity of the United States Administration in asserting that it is striving to eliminate and combat terrorism everywhere, when at the same time it carries out immoral terrorist operations itself against the proud people of Iraq, thus raising an important question regarding the credibility of a major State and permanent member of the Security Council that speaks in high-sounding terms of being a guardian of human rights and international law.

I have the pleasure to transmit to you a copy of the article referred to, with the request that you circulate it to all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abd al-Ghani ABD AL-GHAFUR
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Iraq

THE INDEPENDENT. 26 March 1996

CIA 'backed Iraqi bombers'

EXCLUSIVE

PATRICK COCKBURN

The United States gave financial backing to an Iraqi opposition movement that planted bombs in Baghdad and other cities, killing more than 100 civilians, according to a key member of the group.

Abu Amneh al-Khadami, the chief bomb-maker of an Iraqi party, called the Iraqi National Accord, said that he planted car bombs and other explosive devices in Iraqi cities.

The US has long admitted funding covert operations in northern Iraq, spending $15m (£10m) last year. Other Iraqi opponents of Saddam Hussein have said that the Iraqi National Accord Party is sponsored by the CIA. This is confirmed by Abu Amneh who said that a telephone call from Washington got him out of jail last year, enabling him to start his bombing campaign. He quotes his superior officer as expressing the fear that "the Americans will cut off financial aid to us".

His disclosures come at an embarrassing moment for the US, which has just attended a high-profile summit in Egypt hammering state-sponsored terrorism. A follow-up meeting is planned for later this week.

In the Middle East, condemnation of Iran for supporting Hamas suicide bombers in Israel will be seen as hypocritical if there is no mention of the US role in Iraq.

A senior member of the Iraqi opposition said: "More than 100 civilians have been killed by the bombs in Baghdad in the last three or four years." He added that the bombers had "zero concern" for civilian casualties.

Abu Amneh gave his testimony in front of a video camera at his headquarters in the Kurdish city of Sulaimanyah, northern Iraq. His motive was that he has not been paid for operations already carried out, as well as fears that he was being betrayed by his superior officer.

To justify his conduct he sent copies of the video to Iraqi leaders abroad, one of whom passed it on the *Independent*, saying he was disgusted by the feckless violence it revealed. Abu Amneh explained in detail how he obtained the explosives and timing devices. He complained at one point that he had received only $1,000, although "we blew up a car and we were supposed to get $2,000".

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S/1996/230
29 March 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 29 MARCH 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 29 March 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Abd al-Ghani Abd al-Ghafur, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 29 March 1996 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that the Iraqi authorities have apprehended a group of agents who had been recruited by the intelligence services of the Kuwaiti regime to carry out acts of sabotage with a view to undermining security and stability in Iraq and targeting members of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) at their posts and during their patrols along the Iraq-Kuwait boundary. In an interview shown on Iraqi television on the evening of Thursday, 28 March 1996, the agents (of whom there are six) confessed that they had been recruited by a Kuwaiti intelligence officer named Muhammad Yusuf al-Kunduri to spy on the cargoes being carried by ships arriving at the port of Umm Qasr, to gather information on the economic situation in Iraq and to engage in other forms of espionage. The intelligence services of the regime in question provided the agents with weapons so that they could carry out acts of sabotage and engage in terrorist activities against UNIKOM personnel performing their duties along the border between the two countries and thus create a climate of hostility against Iraq by making it appear to be the party responsible for these acts.

Some of them also confessed to having collected fingerprints from random Iraqi citizens for presentation to the intelligence services of the Kuwaiti regime as those of missing Kuwaitis being held in Iraq. The fingerprints were thus to be used as evidence of the existence of such missing persons, despite the fact that they know this to be false.

The agents also confessed that the intelligence services of the Kuwaiti regime, acting in cooperation with the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), assigned them to gather information on the movement, deployment and armament of the Republican Guard inside Iraqi territory.

The information given by this group of agents provides conclusive evidence of the involvement of the Kuwaiti regime and its intelligence services, in cooperation with the CIA, in actions aimed at undermining security and stability in Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law. This requires that the regime in question should be held directly responsible for any damage arising from the actions of these paid agents.

As it condemns these despicable actions by the Kuwaiti regime, the Government of the Republic of Iraq urges you to intervene in order to prevent any repetition of such actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amd al-Ghani ABD AL-GHAFUR
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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General Assembly
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S/1996/231
1 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 19
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 1 April 1996 from the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour, upon instructions from our Governments, to present to Your Excellency, in your capacity as depositary of multilateral treaties, the position of our Governments in regard to the United Nations document entitled "Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties" (ST/LEG/8), as prepared by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs. More precisely, we refer to the section entitled "In the absence of provisions relating to succession", and in particular to paragraph 297 of the said document.

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Slovenia express their strong objection to the interpretation by the Treaty Section that "the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) ... remains ... the predecessor State upon separation of parts of the territory of the former Yugoslavia". This interpretation is contrary to the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and contrary to the conclusions of the Arbitration Commission of the United Nations/European Union International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

In its resolution 777 (1992) of 19 September 1992, the Security Council stated that "the State formerly known as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has ceased to exist" and that "the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

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(Serbia and Montenegro) cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations". The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/1 of 22 September 1992, supported the decisions of the Security Council.

Likewise, the Arbitration Commission stated that the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had dissolved and ceased to exist as an international legal person, and that none of the successor States, including the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), could claim to be the sole successor State of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The fundamental principles of equality of rights and duties in respect of international law which deal with succession of States with respect to treaties, State property, archives and debts were to be applied to all successor States (opinions No. 8, 9 and 10, see A/48/874-S/1994/189, annex).

Additionally, in practice, the representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have been prevented from participating in international meetings and conferences of States parties to multilateral treaties, in respect of which the Secretary-General acts as depositary, as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had not acted in accordance with international rules on the succession of States.

Another problematic aspect of the text contained in paragraphs 297 and 298 in document ST/LEG/8 is the use of analogies. Each case of State succession has its own specific characteristics. In the absence of an agreement among the successor States of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, it is necessary to resort to relevant provisions contained in resolutions of the principal organs of the United Nations and in the conclusions of the Arbitration Commission.

Therefore, we should kindly request Your Excellency to take immediate measures concerning the document entitled "Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties", making it consistent with the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Our Governments shall insist on their common position regarding State succession and shall oppose any attempt to circumvent the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and the conclusions of the Arbitration Commission.

We should also like to request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item

entitled "Admission of new Members to the United Nations", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Croatia

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Macedonia

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Slovenia

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Security Council

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S/1996/232
1 April 1996

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SIXTEENTH PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1041 (1996) of 29 January 1996, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 31 May 1996 and requested me to submit a progress report on the situation in Liberia by 31 March 1996. The present report provides an update on developments in Liberia since my report of 23 January 1996 (S/1996/47).

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. The peace process in Liberia continues to encounter severe difficulties. During the period under review, there were setbacks on the military front and signs of discord between members of the Council of State.

3. On 28 December 1995, heavy fighting broke out at Tubmanburg as a result of unprovoked attacks on the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) by troops of General Roosevelt Johnson's wing of the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO-J). Casualties were suffered by the combatants and by the civilian population. Despite the efforts of UNOMIL, the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), ULIMO-J has yet to withdraw from Tubmanburg or return to ECOMOG the heavy weapons it seized during the fighting. Negotiations with General Johnson about the return of the weapons are stalemated. On 1 March 1996, ECOMOG withdrew from Tubmanburg, indicating that it would redeploy to the area only when the weapons had been returned.

4. As a result of discord within ULIMO-J, the Executive Council and commanders of that faction removed General Johnson as its Chairman on 2 March 1996 and installed General William Karyee as Acting Chairman. The faction leadership stated that General Johnson would remain a member of ULIMO-J and keep his Cabinet post as Minister for Rural Development.

5. On 4 March 1996, the Council of State held an emergency meeting to defuse the growing tensions arising from the stalemated peace process. At its conclusion, the Chairman reported that the Council of State had adopted rules and regulations governing its conduct and that, henceforth, only the Chairman would speak on behalf of the Council. This step was taken after statements by individual Council members had generated misunderstanding about its policies. The Council set the end of April 1996 as the deadline to extend civil administration to all parts of the country.

6. The Council of State condemned ULIMO-J for its attack against ECOMOG and the atrocities it committed against civilians in Tubmanburg and ordered it to return the weapons seized from ECOMOG. The Council also called on all Liberian factions to remove their checkpoints immediately and on ECOMOG to deploy throughout the country. It stated that, where and when necessary, ECOMOG would be assisted by national Liberian immigration and police officers.

7. Concerned that the conflict within ULIMO-J could create tension in other areas, particularly Monrovia and Kakata, the Council of State invited Generals Johnson and Karyee to a meeting at the executive mansion on 5 March 1996. General Johnson failed to attend the meeting. Thereafter, the Council decided to extend temporary recognition to the new ULIMO-J leadership, pending the return of ECOMOG's weapons and the removal of all its checkpoints in Tubmanburg. The Council also suspended General Johnson from his Cabinet post and requested ECOMOG to search his residence for weapons.

8. On 7 March 1996, as ECOMOG searched General Johnson's residence, persons loyal to him in Kakata abducted a UNOMIL military observer, threatening to execute him if General Johnson's life was placed in danger. Two other foreign nationals were also abducted. In addition, Johnson loyalists erected roadblocks in Kakata, virtually shutting down Liberia's main highway. Following negotiations between my Special Representative and General Johnson, the hostages were released, unharmed, on the same day.

9. On 8 March, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) took control of Kakata and Bong Mines from ULIMO-J, reportedly to ensure that the Monrovia-Gbarnga highway remained open (see map). The fighting which ensued resulted in a number of casualties. Councilman Charles Taylor, leader of NPFL, announced that Kakata and Bong Mines were to be handed over to ECOMOG and a civil administration took place on 11 March, and Kakata was declared a safe haven. While NPFL stated that it had handed over Kakata to ECOMOG on 21 March 1996, it has not yet withdrawn its forces from the area.

10. About 500 ULIMO-J fighters loyal to General Johnson, who participated in the fighting at Bong Mines and Kakata, surrendered to ECOMOG. They are encamped at its base at Fendell, just north of Monrovia. A team from UNOMIL, the Office of the Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) visited Fendell on 14 March and reported that the fighters, amongst whom were many child soldiers, expressed a desire to be demobilized. The ULIMO-J commander at Todee, 15 kilometres south-west of Kakata, reported to the team that about 1,000 more combatants were in the bush, waiting to surrender. Soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) were also reported in the area. On 20 March, following consultations with ULIMO-J and LNTG, ECOMOG

and UNOMIL, with the support of the Office of the Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, commenced disarmament and demobilization of the combatants held at Fendell.

11. Renewed skirmishes between NPFL and the Liberian Peace Council (LPC) and harassment of the civilian population by fighters in the south-east have also threatened the peace process. Such hostilities between local factional forces have created discord and mistrust between faction leaders on the Council of State and increased tensions in Monrovia, where the leaders and some of their followers reside.

12. On 22 March 1996, fighting broke out between rival ULIMO-J forces in the eastern sections of Monrovia. On 23 March, the Council of State issued a warrant for the arrest of General Johnson, accusing him of the murder of a man found dead on his property. Since then, General Johnson has been confined to his residence.

13. The security situation in Monrovia has seriously deteriorated in recent months. Incidents of arms smuggling, shootings and armed robberies in the city have been increasingly reported. On 13 February 1996, a group of NPFL fighters forcibly stopped ECOMOG and the national police from searching for illegal arms in the eastern suburbs of Monrovia. ECOMOG and the police, fearing an outbreak of violence, withdrew their men and aborted the search. On 24 February, a shooting incident took place near the airport at the residence of Councilman George Boley, involving LPC fighters and the AFL Chief of Staff and his bodyguards.

14. The lack of progress in the peace process, as well as growing political tensions in Monrovia, prompted civilian groups to call for a "stay-at-home" on 15 February. The action was reportedly in protest at the failure of faction leaders to ensure the disarmament of their fighters. It prompted some members of the Council of State publicly to blame one another for the current state of the peace process. Divisions within the Council of State were also reported during negotiations with ECOWAS about the conclusion of the status-of-forces agreement, which were held at Monrovia from 5 to 8 February 1996. Nevertheless, the negotiations were concluded with the adoption, ad referendum, of a draft agreement. Both parties agreed to submit the draft to their respective decision-making bodies and to fix a date for the signing of the agreement.

15. On a more positive note, community leaders from some regions have initiated efforts to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups at the grass-roots level. On 6 March, the Gio-Mano and Krahn ethnic groups met at Monrovia and signed an Inter-Tribal pact of Reconciliation, Peace, Unity and Cooperation. This development was welcomed by the Council of State, which stressed that such efforts should be replicated in other regions of the country as a means of consolidating the peace process.

16. The ECOWAS Chiefs of Staff met at Monrovia from 18 to 19 March 1996 to review the status of the peace process. Their meeting was expected to be a precursor to a summit of the ECOWAS Committee of Nine, which was planned for 27 March but has since been postponed.

III. ELECTIONS

17. The Liberian Ad Hoc Elections Commission has begun the process of certifying political parties in preparation for the legislative and presidential elections, which, in accordance with the Abuja Agreement, are scheduled to take place on 20 August 1996. To day, certificates of authorization have been issued to three political parties, namely the Unity Party, the National Patriotic Party and the Labour Party. Seven other political parties, which had existed prior to the outbreak of the civil war, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, agreeing to form an alliance during the elections.

18. My Special Representative is consulting the Ad Hoc Elections Commission and the Council of State on preparations for the elections. That Commission has appealed to the international community for logistic assistance to prepare for the elections. Given the delay in the commencement of disarmament and the continuing hostilities, some members of the Council of State have expressed apprehension about holding elections on schedule. Others, however, believe that the elections should be held on 20 August whether or not disarmament takes place.

19. The Security Council, in resolution 1020 (1995) of 10 November 1995, requested UNOMIL to observe and verify the election process, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and ECOWAS. In this connection, consultations have been initiated with OAU and ECOWAS. A technical mission will visit Liberia, as soon as conditions permit, to consult with LNTG, OAU and ECOWAS and to finalize the framework for UNOMIL's involvement in the observation and verification of the electoral process.

20. The electoral component of UNOMIL will deploy to Liberia in stages, in accordance with progress in the peace process. A senior electoral officer is being appointed to monitor the initial preparations for the elections. Depending on progress in disarmament and demobilization, I intend to appoint a Chief Electoral Officer in May/June 1996 to assist my Special Representative and finalize with LNTG, ECOWAS and OAU operational plans for the holding of elections. It is anticipated that the Chief Electoral Officer will be assisted by 6 county coordinators and 20 electoral teams, each comprising two United Nations volunteers, which will be deployed throughout the country. In addition, it is estimated that 200 international electoral observers will be required during the voting period to monitor and verify the elections.

IV. MILITARY ASPECTS

Status of the cease-fire

21. Although the Council of State on 6 March 1996 renewed its call to the factions to dismantle all checkpoints, the factions continue to control most areas of Liberia. Mutual distrust among them makes it unlikely that their forces will disengage until ECOMOG has deployed throughout the country.

22. In addition to the military activities mentioned in section II, reports were received of growing tensions in Buchanan, following rumours of possible

infiltration by NPFL fighters. As a result, many civilians fled from Buchanan to more secure areas. The withdrawal of ECOMOG from Tubmanburg on 1 March left the area extremely vulnerable. Reports have been received of fighting among elements of ULIMO-J and with General Alhaji Kromah's wing of ULIMO (ULIMO-K) over control of the area. Currently, neither ECOMOG nor UNOMIL has a presence in Tubmanburg.

23. Councilman Taylor informed my Special Representative during a meeting with him on 21 March that NPFL had intervened in Kakata to establish security in the area. He stated that he would take similar action in other areas where the Council of State felt security was threatened and that such actions should not be treated as violations of the cease-fire.

24. At present, ECOMOG is deployed in Monrovia, Gbarnga, Buchanan, Greenville, Kakata, Suehn and Konola. ECOMOG has received an additional infantry battalion from Nigeria, increasing its total strength from approximately 7,000 to 7,500 troops, as well as 3 helicopters and 20 trucks as part of the logistic assistance pledged by the United States of America. Additional trucks are expected soon. Assistance pledged by other Member States, however, has yet to arrive in Liberia.

Deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

25. UNOMIL currently has a total strength of 93 military observers (see annex). The UNOMIL disarmament team withdrew from Tubmanburg on 30 December 1995 because of fighting between ECOMOG and ULIMO-J. It was redeployed to the area on 31 January 1996 but was withdrawn a second time on 2 March, following the withdrawal of ECOMOG troops the previous day without prior notice to UNOMIL. The UNOMIL mobile and disarmament teams which withdrew from Kakata on 8 March because of fighting between NPFL and ULIMO-J were redeployed there on 23 March.

26. UNOMIL is currently deployed in Monrovia, Buchanan and Suehn. Regular patrolling, investigations of cease-fire violations and monitoring of the overall military and security situation remain the main tasks of the military observers. UNOMIL will redeploy to Tubmanburg as soon as the security situation stabilizes. Deployment to Greenville is expected to take place shortly, as soon as logistic requirements have been moved by ship to the area. UNOMIL deployment in other areas is contingent upon ECOMOG deployment, as well as the security situation. It should be noted, however, that LNTG has insisted on clearing UNOMIL's deployments and has not always provided the cooperation required on a timely basis.

V. DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

27. As noted in my last report, the National Disarmament and Demobilization Commission informed UNOMIL in December 1995 that LNTG wished to introduce significant changes to the disarmament and demobilization plan. UNOMIL, ECOWAS and ECOMOG undertook intensive consultations with the Commission to accommodate its concerns, without jeopardizing preparations for disarmament and demobilization which had already been made. On 1 March 1996, agreement was

reached on a revised plan, which was subsequently forwarded to the Council of State. The plan is still awaiting the Council's approval.

28. The revised plan does not differ substantially from the original plan outlined in my report of 23 October (S/1995/881). However, the Commission has insisted that it must compile data on the number and precise location of combatants before the commencement of disarmament. In addition, given ECOMOG's logistic and manpower constraints, disarmament and demobilization will be undertaken in two consecutive phases, each lasting about four weeks. A total of 14 sites will be used, with 8 sites operational in each phase. About 50 per cent of each faction's combatants will be demobilized in each phase.

29. Reconnaissance of most disarmament and demobilization sites has been completed. Most of the facilities to be used are government property and it has taken some time for LNTG to turn these over for the use of UNOMIL. As at 15 March, rehabilitation work had been completed at four sites. National Disarmament and Demobilization Commission clearance for the rehabilitation of the additional sites is still pending. Sites for the final phase will be rehabilitated during the first phase to ensure there is no break in the process, thus allowing disarmament and demobilization to be completed within the time-frame of two months provided in the Abuja Agreement.

30. It has been suggested that the demobilization package does not provide sufficient incentive for combatants to disarm. However, given the lack of donor interest in providing such incentives (as was done in Mozambique, for example), it may not be possible to increase the present package on the basis of existing resources. Furthermore, it is felt that in Liberia the main incentive for demobilization will come from the reintegration assistance which ex-combatants and their families will receive.

31. Successful reintegration of demobilized soldiers will depend on the mechanisms and activities put in place to enable ex-combatants to pass smoothly from demobilization to the reintegration phase. While many will return immediately to civilian life in their home communities, projects have been defined, and funding provided under the UNOMIL budget, to employ ex-combatants with no other means of livelihood.

VI. HUMAN RIGHTS

32. The human rights situation deteriorated somewhat during the reporting period. Civilians in Grand Cape Mount County were subjected to serious abuse and harassment from ULIMO-K forces, including an alarming number of rape cases. It has also been reported that civilians have been robbed, beaten and forced to carry equipment for ULIMO-K.

33. In lower Bomi County unruly bands of ULIMO-J fighters have robbed, beaten, tortured and killed civilians and ransacked villages. Abuse from ULIMO-J has prompted the formation of civilian vigilante and self-defence brigades, often along ethnic lines. This has provoked further abuses from ULIMO-J forces.

34. During the fighting in Kakata on 8 March 1996, civilians were beaten and a number of women were reportedly raped by fighters. UNOMIL received credible reports - which could not be independently verified - that a small number of ULIMO-J fighters were executed in Kakata after the fighting. There are numerous reports of human rights abuses perpetrated by LPC fighters against civilian populations throughout the south-east. These reports include forced labour, robbery, beatings and killings.

35. On 27 February, the managing editor of the National newspaper was injured when he was detained while attending a meeting with the Minister of Justice. This was in apparent retribution for an article he published reporting that NPFL had established a hit squad in Monrovia, partly composed of NPFL fighters allegedly responsible for attacking civilians in Tapeta in September 1995. The editor has since been released on bond and charged with the criminal offence of "false public alarm". In late January, two journalists from the Observer newspaper were mistreated when they were detained at the orders of the Director of Police after the paper published an article critical of NPFL. The journalists were charged with "criminal malevolence".

36. On several occasions, UNOMIL formally requested the Justice Ministry to clarify the status of five NPFL fighters detained by NPFL in October 1995 who were accused of responsibility for civilian casualties in the Tapeta incident. In December 1995, UNOMIL verified that these men were detained in Gbarnga, but since then no clarification on their status has been received from the Ministry of Justice.

37. At present, one human rights officer is assigned to UNOMIL. Given the amount of work required to implement fully UNOMIL's human rights mandate, I plan to deploy two additional human rights officers to the mission and to upgrade the level of the current human rights post.

VII. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

38. Because of increased insecurity, the progress made by the humanitarian community over the past several months in reaching inaccessible communities could not be sustained during the reporting period. Humanitarian workers in all parts of the country have been harassed by fighters, their convoys held up and supplies looted. As a result, some non-governmental organizations suspended all but emergency operations during four days in February. Security constraints have made Lofa County virtually inaccessible to the humanitarian community since December 1995, except for the cross-border activities of non-governmental organizations. Relief convoys to the south-east have been suspended. Previously accessible areas, such as Tubmanburg, Bomi County and Grand Cape Mount County have also become inaccessible. As a result, populations in need, including 100,000 refugees from Sierra Leone, cannot be reached by relief organizations.

39. The fighting in Kakata temporarily disrupted the delivery of humanitarian assistance to northern areas. This incident, together with the current political and military situation, has prompted some non-governmental organizations operating in Bong and Nimba counties to relocate some of their

staff temporarily to Côte d'Ivoire. However, non-governmental organizations have maintained a presence in these counties as well as in Rivercess, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and Margibi, where the humanitarian community continues to provide assistance. This has taken the form of provision of relief, implementation of health and agricultural programmes, the registration and resettlement of spontaneous returnees from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, the rehabilitation of water supply and bridges and the tracing of families in Liberia, as well as in neighbouring countries.

40. The Office of the Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator has been particularly active in facilitating and coordinating the movement of relief convoys wherever possible, in collaboration with UNOMIL, ECOMOG and LNTG. At the same time, my Special Representative and the Humanitarian Coordinator have intensified efforts to ensure a secure working environment for the humanitarian community. In addition, contingency plans are being developed to prepare for any influx of people into Monrovia and other safe zones which may be caused by the recent fighting in the south-east and in Margibi and Bomi counties.

41. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has concluded a regional plan of operation for the repatriation of the more than 700,000 Liberian refugees and has issued an appeal for $60 million for this purpose. I urge the international community to respond generously to the appeal. UNHCR is also initiating reintegration projects in Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties for approximately 30,000 spontaneous returnees from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Recently, the High Commissioner visited Liberian refugee settlements in the region.

42. After extensive consultations with LNTG, the Council of State expressed its support for a national reintegration framework programme, which was developed in collaboration with the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Efforts are being made to ensure that the programme receives a wide consensus among the humanitarian community and donors. With a case-load of 1.4 million internally displaced and war-affected persons, the reintegration programme will focus on community-based assistance, implemented through Area Reintegration and Development Units/Centres that will be established throughout the country under the overall authority of LNTG. The Units/Centres will assist local authorities with resettlement and reintegration tasks and play a coordinating and linking role with activities for ex-combatants, returnees and internally displaced persons.

VIII. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

43. The socio-economic recovery of Liberia depends on the restoration of peace, security and political stability. While the productive sectors of the economy (iron ore, rubber, logging) remain virtually paralysed, and the physical infrastructure significantly downgraded, economic activities are gradually increasing in Monrovia, Buchanan and other areas where relative security exists. The gains achieved so far in the peace process have allowed for the cautious initiation of transitional activities from humanitarian relief to rehabilitation

and reconstruction. In this connection, the UNDP Administrator visited Liberia from 21 to 23 January.

44. At the Conference on Assistance to Liberia, held in New York on 27 October 1995, it was decided that a follow-up special consultative meeting would be held in the first quarter of 1996 to harmonize planning and financing for recovery activities. In preparation for that meeting, a joint UNDP/World Bank mission visited Liberia from 18 February to 2 March 1996. Subsequently, core teams of national experts were established to undertake rapid technical assessments of critical development areas, including education, food security, health, information systems, infrastructure, private sector, public administration, resettlement and the profile and status of returnees.

45. The teams will focus on refining the allocation of resources for ongoing programmes and projects. In addition, they will prepare an integrated macroeconomic/sector framework for rehabilitation and reconstruction. This work, which is expected to be completed in the next few months, is led by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and carried out in collaboration with LNTG, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and major donors.

46. In recent months, the International Monetary Fund fielded two missions to Liberia to review the tax system and expenditure management procedures and set forth several recommendations to improve Liberia's fiscal performance. It is envisaged that a technical assistance programme, focusing on fiscal issues, will be developed for Liberia. An African Development Bank mission has also recently visited Liberia to assess the socio-economic situation and progress in the peace process. The Bank has indicated interest in assisting Liberia in debt management.

47. For the first time since the outbreak of the Liberian civil war, members of the Mano River Union (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) met at Monrovia from 14 to 16 February 1996 for a subregional consultative meeting on private sector development. The meeting identified and addressed the main problems of private sector development in the subregion. A study is being prepared on various proposals to enhance private sector involvement in reconstruction and development and to foster regional cooperation.

IX. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

48. In my previous report (S/1996/47), I indicated that the General Assembly had authorized me to enter into commitments in the amount of $12,169,600 gross for the maintenance of UNOMIL for the period from 1 February to 31 March 1996. In this regard, my report on the financing of UNOMIL (A/50/650/Add.2), which is currently before the General Assembly, indicates that the additional cost for the maintenance of UNOMIL for the remainder of the current mandate through 31 May 1996 will amount to $3,207,000 gross. Resource requirements associated with the full deployment of the electoral component, as outlined in paragraph 20 above, will be sought from the General Assembly in due course.

49. As at 15 March 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMIL special account since the inception of the Mission totalled $22.6 million. The total

outstanding assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations on 15 March 1996 amounted to $1,889 million.

50. Since my last report, Egypt has made a contribution of $10,000 to the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Cotonou Agreement in Liberia. As at 15 March 1996, total contributions received amounted to some $24 million, with authorized expenditure totalling some $21.9 million.

X. OBSERVATIONS

51. The situation in Liberia is rapidly deteriorating and I fear that, unless the peace process is put back on track in the very near future, the consequences could be disastrous. The civilian population and even some combatants have demonstrated a strong desire for peace. They are frustrated, however, by the failure of the Council of State and the faction leaders to muster the political will and determination required to implement the Abuja Agreement, in particular its disarmament and demobilization aspects, which are essential for the restoration of durable peace.

52. The commencement of disarmament and demobilization can no longer be delayed. I therefore call on the Council of State to approve the disarmament and demobilization plan immediately, as well as to ensure that the factions are ready to disarm by 30 April. I expect the Council of State to make sure that the Liberian National Transitional Government, the National Disarmament and Demobilization Commission and the factions extend the necessary cooperation to ECOMOG and the United Nations in implementing the process. I will report to the Security Council before the expiration of UNOMIL's mandate on 31 May so that it may take the appropriate decisions, in the light of progress made in this regard.

53. The implementation of the Abuja Agreement is ultimately the responsibility of the Council of State and, especially, the faction leaders. Nevertheless, as I have repeatedly stated, ECOMOG must be provided with the necessary resources to carry out the tasks entrusted to it. The international community has on a number of occasions expressed its commitment to supporting the efforts of ECOMOG. While ECOMOG has recently received some assistance, particularly from the United States, it still lacks the additional manpower and logistic capabilities required to deploy throughout the country in order to establish a secure environment for the implementation of the peace process.

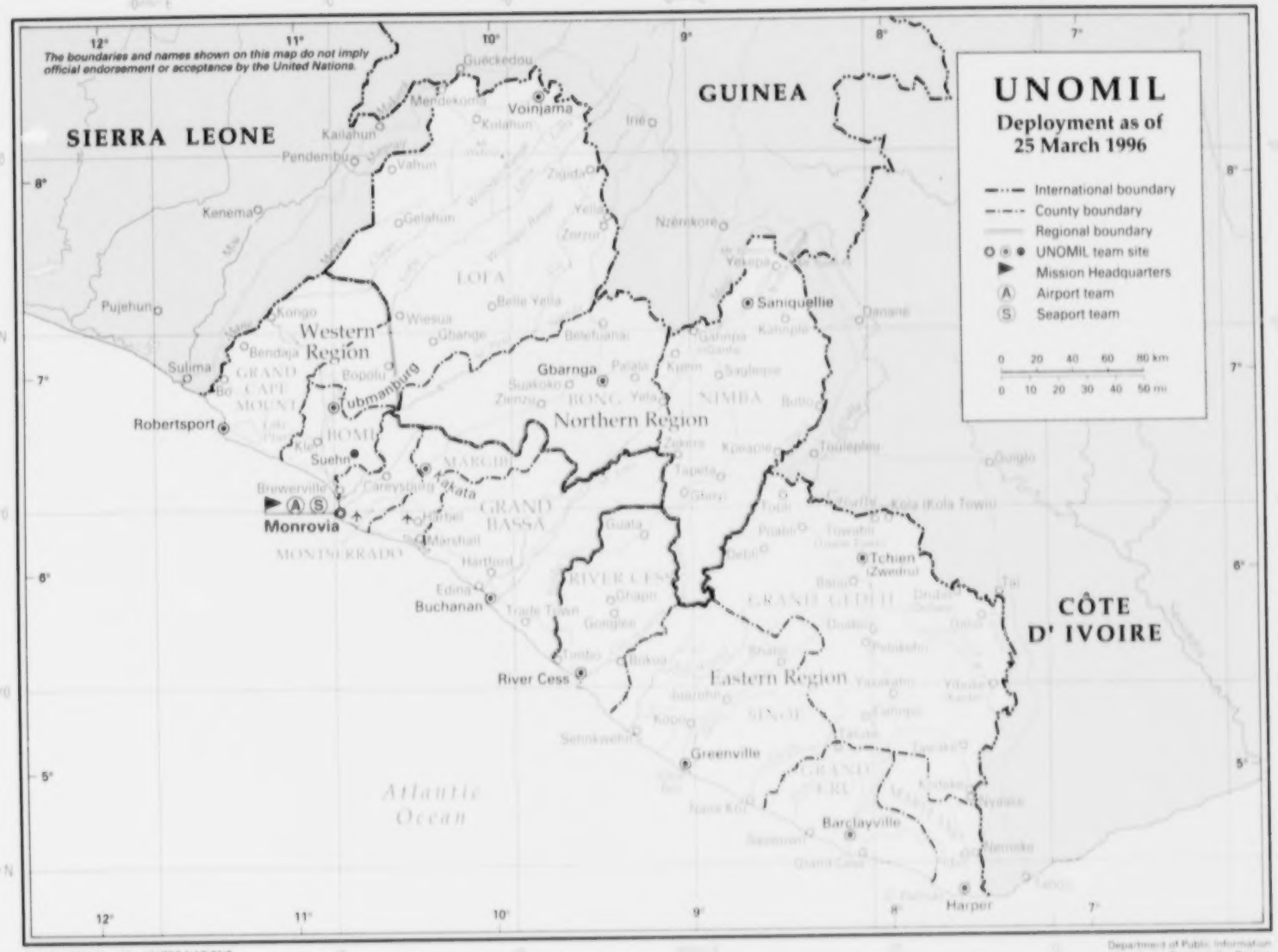
54. The international community needs to take urgent action to enable ECOMOG to discharge its mandate. So far, the failure to provide the necessary resources has given an opportunity to the factions to procrastinate and renege on their commitments. In the absence of a resolute effort to address the resource requirements of ECOMOG, the present drift in the peace process may continue, further undermining security in Liberia. The international community may ultimately face a major humanitarian disaster that could destabilize the subregion. Such a disaster would be far more costly, in the long run, than providing ECOMOG with the means to carry out its responsibilities under the Abuja Agreement.

Annex

Composition of the military component of UNOMIL
as at 25 March 1996

	Observers	Others	Total
Bangladesh	8	7*	15
China	7		7
Czech Republic	6		6
Egypt	11		11
Guinea-Bissau	3		3
India	9		9
Jordan	8		8
Kenya	11		11
Malaysia	9		9
Pakistan	8		8
Uruguay	6	—	6
Total	86	7	93

* Medical staff.



Map No. 3802 Rev. 16 UNITED NATIONS
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UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

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A/50/916
S/1996/233
2 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 20 (b), 42 and 44
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Identical letters dated 1 April 1996 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 29 March 1996 addressed to me by H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (see annex).

I would be grateful if the contents of the letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the General Assembly under agenda items 20 (b), 42 and 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

ANNEX

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 29 March 1996 from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization

I have the pleasure to convey to you, on behalf of the Palestinian people and on my own personal behalf, the sincerest expressions of gratitude and deep appreciation for the positions you have taken in support of Palestinian national rights and of the dedicated efforts we are making for the continuation of the peace process and the implementation of the agreements concluded with the Israeli Government for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace that will ensure security and stability for all the peoples and States of the Middle East region.

We are addressing ourselves to you, Mr. Secretary-General, in the difficult and critical circumstances in which we find ourselves, in order to assure you once again that we reject and condemn the policy of blockade and closure being pursued by the Government of Israel and to convey to you our extreme displeasure and great concern at the dire consequences the blockade measures are having and at the ongoing closures that have been imposed by Israel on the entire Palestinian people in the areas subject to the Palestinian National Authority.

The general security blockade the Israeli Government has imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, its reoccupation of areas from which Israeli forces had previously been withdrawn and its failure to withdraw from the city of Hebron in accordance with the timetable agreed upon at Taba and Washington are in flagrant violation of all international covenants, conventions and customs. We consider such blockade and closure as tantamount to the declaration of a state of war against the Palestinian people, a people that have chosen the road of peace but that for more than a month have been subjected to the worst and most unjust form of collective punishment, to say nothing of the starvation of children, women and the elderly and contempt for basic rights that should be respected in the same manner as human rights in all countries of the world.

I appeal to you, on behalf of the Palestinian people, on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Authority, and on my own personal behalf, to intervene in person with a view to putting an end to the unjust Israeli measures of blockade and closure. I hope that you will bring this matter to the urgent and immediate attention of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations in view of the dangers to which the persistence of this devastating situation can give rise, inasmuch as the measures taken by Israel constitute a flagrant violation and gross breach of all the agreements concluded between us and the Israeli Government and threaten to wreck the entire peace process. Peace, Mr. Secretary-General, is not the quest of the Palestinians alone but is a pressing need and a basic quest for the international community, for Arabs and for Israelis equally.

In conveying to you once again our pride in and deep appreciation for your dedicated and constructive efforts and the conspicuous and honourable positions you have taken in support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, I am hopeful that your worthy endeavours will be crowned with success so that we may achieve the desired peace based on justice, equality and respect for human rights.

(Signed) Yasser ARAFAT
President of the State of Palestine
Executive Chairman of the Palestine
Liberation Organization
President of the Palestinian National
Authority

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Security Council

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S/1996/234
2 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the occasion of the adoption of the presidential statement on a consultation mechanism for troop-contributing countries with the Security Council, and upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to reiterate the position of the Government of Egypt, which was earlier addressed to the President of the Security Council in my letters dated 1 December 1992 (S/24878) and 27 October 1994 (S/1994/1231).

The Government of Egypt considers it a matter of principle that troop-contributing countries express their views to the Security Council on matters relevant to the troops in the field.

It is a basic premise that a State that places its military, police or civilian personnel at the service of the international community for a peace-keeping operation, with the possibility of putting the lives of these men and women at risk, acquires the legitimate right to be consulted by the Security Council, in the way that the Council deems most appropriate. This right has not been recognized in the present text of the presidential statement (S/PRST/1996/13).

At any given time, the overwhelming majority of the United Nations peace-keeping forces are from States that are not members of the Security Council. These forces and observers are being mandated by the Security Council to perform in a dangerous environment. Troop-contributing countries should therefore be consulted before decisions affecting the lives and safety of their nationals are taken by the Security Council. To this effect, the Council should apply the spirit of Article 44 of the Charter of the United Nations.

We consider that, in due time, the Security Council should resume the examination of this issue in order to find the necessary consensus for this right to be recognized not only de facto but also de jure.

The delegation of Egypt joined the consensus to adopt the presidential statement because it was a step in the right direction since it stipulates that "the Security Council recalls that the arrangements described above are not

exhaustive. They do not preclude consultations in a variety of forms, including informal communication between the Council President or its members and troop-contributing countries and, as appropriate, with another countries especially affected, for example, countries from the region concerned" and that "the Security Council will continue to keep arrangements for consultations and the exchange of information and views with troop contributors and prospective contributors under review and stands ready to consider further measures and new mechanisms to enhance further the arrangements in the light of experience".

I should like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations

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General Assembly
Security Council

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S/1996/235
3 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda items 42, 44, 84 and 85
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 2 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

For the last few weeks Israel, the Occupying Power, has been taking very harsh measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. Those measures include the demolition of homes, the confiscation of land and expansion of settlements, and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, as well as into and out of that territory. Such restrictions constitute a siege and strangulation of the Palestinian territory, the Palestinian people and their economy. (This specific issue is detailed further in the memorandum annexed hereto.)

We condemn all of the above-mentioned Israeli measures as violating the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which is applicable to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. They also violate various relevant Security Council resolutions as well as resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations. In addition, those measures violate the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which were witnessed by the two co-sponsors of the peace process and other Governments. Such measures effectively threaten the integrity of those agreements.

Furthermore, several Israeli officials have indicated the intention of Israel, the Occupying Power, to deport a number of Palestinians. We strongly warn against such a measure, with its dangerous implications and consequences.

Also, Israeli forces have failed to comply with the relevant provisions of the agreements between the two sides regarding the redeployment from Hebron, which was to be completed by 28 March 1996. This is one of several areas of lack of compliance by Israel with provisions of the agreements between the two sides.

We call upon the international community, and specifically upon the Security Council, to exert the necessary pressure on Israel to cease all illegal actions directed against the Palestinian people, to desist from all such actions in the future and to scrupulously abide by all agreements that have been reached between the two parties.

The response to violence and hatred should not be actions of a violent nature directed at the Palestinian people as a whole. Further, combating acts of terror cannot be served by the pursuit of such actions and methods which undermine the peace process and the support for it among the Palestinian people.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter and of its annex distributed as an official document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 42, 44, 84 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muin SHREIM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Palestinian Memorandum on the Israeli Siege and Strangulation of the Palestinian Territory, People and Economy

Israeli policy and measures concerning the movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, as well as into and out of that territory, are synonymous with the imposition of a siege on the Palestinian territory and the strangulation of the Palestinian people and their economy. This policy is much more complex than the initial perception of closure as that entailing the closure of the Israeli borders with the Palestinian territory. The following are the various aspects of such a complex policy.

1. Restrictions on freedom of movement within the Palestinian territory itself, cordoning off areas, including movement between towns, villages and cities.

In the West Bank, this aspect of the policy has recently been carried through in a way never seen since the beginning of the occupation in 1967. Needless to say, it has made the lives of the people unbearable, paralyzing daily life at all levels.

In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army has obstructed the coastal road, interrupting its continuity. The army has also imposed restrictions on roads within the yellow area and has repeatedly imposed restrictions on movement along the main north-south road of the Gaza Strip. These actions directly violate the agreements between the two parties related to the Gaza Strip.

2. Interruption of the continuity of the Palestinian territory as well as restrictions on entry into occupied East Jerusalem.

The discontinuity of the Palestinian territory is the result of a lack of compliance by the Israeli side with regard to the establishment of a "safe passage" between Gaza and Jericho during the first stage of implementation of the agreements between the two parties and Gaza and the West Bank in the second stage. It is aggravated by the imposition, on a continuous basis, of restrictions on movement of persons and goods between the West Bank and Gaza, which are viewed as a single territorial unit by the two parties to the Declaration of Principles of 1993.

Israeli measures making Jerusalem off-limits to the Palestinian people and imposing stringent restrictions on their entry into the city have created enormous problems for them given the special status of the city as the religious, commercial and cultural centre for the Palestinian people.

The territorial continuity and smooth movement within and throughout the Palestinian territory is a sine qua non for the building of a viable Palestinian economy. By imposing an opposite situation, Israel is in essence negating all efforts towards the development and stabilization of the Palestinian economy.

3. Closure of the Israeli border to Palestinian persons and goods from the West Bank and Gaza and prevention of the entry of Israeli goods into the Palestinian territory or parts of it, as well as restrictions on the movement of foreigners between Israel on the one hand and, at least, Gaza on the other.

This closure has been the cause of great damage to the Palestinian economy since it is applied in most cases to both persons and goods, even those destined for or originating from a third party. It has become a source of extreme hardship for a large segment of the population, especially the Palestinian workers who depend on Israeli jobs. Throughout the years of occupation, Israel used Palestinian workers as a source of cheap labour on a large scale to augment Israeli economic benefits. Preventing those workers from reaching their jobs now constitutes a denial of Israel's continuing responsibilities until a different Palestinian economy is built. In addition, the closure is the cause of suffering and hardship in various specific fields such as that of medical service and treatment. The whole practice, while carried through by the Israelis on the grounds of security concerns, violates the agreements between the two sides and it is destructive and cannot be seriously justified.

4. Closure of the borders of the West Bank and Gaza with Jordan and Egypt respectively, including the movement of persons and goods which are legally being imported by Palestinian merchants, severing any links between the Palestinian territory and the outside world and effectively isolating it from neighbouring countries.

Such a measure terminates any existing trade potential and, coupled with the above-mentioned closure, it results in serious shortages in essential, daily living materials such as foodstuffs and medicines.

This outrageous aspect of the Israeli policy is totally contradictory to the agreements reached and has no relation whatsoever to the concept of making peace It is a way of bullying the Palestinian people and imposing Israeli will using military means.

In short, the above-mentioned measures of this Israeli policy have been causing great harm to the Palestinian people. Further, this policy constitutes a form of collective punishment of the Palestinian people and it is illogical and has no serious justification. This policy and its measures gravely violate the agreements between the two sides and seriously undermine the peace process and its future. They must be brought to an immediate end.

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S/1996/236
2 April 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I should like to send you our reply to the declaration made by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the occasion of the twelfth review of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the Security Council, issued in document A/51/84-S/1996/211 of 22 March 1996.

The Great Jamahiriya expresses its total rejection of the declaration, which reveals the obstinacy of those States and their insistence upon going against the view of the majority of the members of the Security Council, who at each review express their appreciation of the flexibility shown by the Jamahiriya with a view to arriving at a just and peaceful settlement of the dispute and reaffirm their support for the proposal made by the League of Arab States. The proposal, which calls for the trial of the two suspects at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice before Scottish judges and in accordance with Scottish law, has met with support from many regional and international organizations because it takes into account the interests of all the parties and is therefore the sole practical proposal capable of ending the dispute in a peaceful manner.

The inability of the three States to find any reasonable grounds to support the accusations of terrorism levelled by them against the Jamahiriya has led them to attempt to establish arbitrarily a link between the Jamahiriya and events connected with the Palestinian opposition to Israeli occupation. This is a flagrant blackmail attempt, inasmuch as the Great Jamahiriya has proclaimed many times its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. Moreover, the entire world understands that the Jamahiriya is a victim of continual terrorism by the United States, which, not content to provoke Libya within its territorial waters, in 1986 went so far in its scorn for international law as to send hundreds of military aircraft at night to bomb Libyan cities, in flagrant defiance of international legitimacy and much to the disapproval of the peoples of the entire world.

The insistence of the three States on rejecting peaceful solutions to the dispute and their threats to intensify the application of the existing sanctions

can only mean that those States are using the tragedy of the Pan Am aircraft victims, and the suffering of their families for more than seven years, for political purposes, in order to discredit the Libyan Arab people and impair their right to choose freely the patterns of their political and economic life, in the belief that continuing the sanctions will lead them to deny their principles and their goals and submit to policies of hegemony and subordinat

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has shown complete flexibility, taken numerous initiatives and agreed to the proposal of the League of Arab States as a compromise solution for ending the dispute. The three States, however, persist in their obstinacy and reject every solution, though they know that the extradition of the two suspects by Libya cannot be expected owing to the absence of any extradition agreement with the United States or the United Kingdom and the fact that it is prohibited by Libyan national law. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes on this occasion to call upon the Security Council to find an appropriate solution to this dispute that takes into account both the interests of the victims' families and those of the Libyan Arab people, with the request that the parties concerned expedite its implementation. Should the three States remain obdurate, it is incumbent on the Security Council to remove the sanctions against the Jamahiriya, the continued existence of which runs counter to the will of the international community.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed A. AZWAI
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/51/89*
S/1996/237
29 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 81 of the preliminary list**

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 22 March 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region signed by the President of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev, at Tbilisi on 8 March 1996.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the
United Nations

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
of Georgia to the
United Nations

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/51/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region, signed by the President of Georgia and the President of Azerbaijan at Tbilisi on 8 March 1996

The last decade of the twentieth century has been marked by fundamental changes in international relations. Historic steps have resulted in a major shift from the state of cold war to the wide-ranging affirmation of the principles of democracy and the recognition that there is no alternative to cooperation in the interests of universal peace and international security.

The legacy of a totalitarian regime has transformed the region into an arena of bitter confrontation and aggressive separatism and nationalism, which have led to armed conflicts. The death of innocent people, ethnic cleansing, the transformation of hundreds of thousands of citizens into refugees in their native land, the widespread destruction of valuables and property, and economic paralysis are the onerous consequences of these conflicts. Such destabilization contains a dangerous destructive force. Further escalation may lead to a large-scale catastrophe.

At the same time, the traditions of tolerance and mutual assistance are strong in the Caucasus. For centuries, in times of misfortune, people were always prepared to help each other, regardless of ethnic or religious differences.

From the point of view of natural and human resources, the Caucasus is one of the richest regions of the world. The normalization of the political situation, the restoration of mutual trust and the creation of viable mechanisms for ensuring lasting peace, stability and security are essential if these riches are to be used with maximum effectiveness for the benefit of all the peoples and all inhabitants of our region, and the advantageous transport and geographical conditions are to be fully exploited.

The States Parties to this Declaration, expressing their firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, desiring to preserve and strengthen the traditionally close and friendly ties and good-neighbourly relations in the region, declare that they shall build their mutual relations on the basis of:

Commitment to the common goals of strengthening peace, stability and security in the region;

The inviolability of internationally recognized borders and the inadmissibility of any encroachments upon them;

Consistent observance of and respect for the principles of sovereignty, the rejection of the use of force or the threat of its use, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

Commitment to the peaceful settlement of all disputes and armed conflicts in the territory of the States of the region on the basis of the strict and unconditional observance of territorial integrity and the inviolability of State borders;

Commitment not to create or support separatist movements or separatist regimes, and rejection of the methods and practice of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Recognition of the need to develop mutually advantageous and equitable bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region and the European Union;

Gradual strengthening of ties between the countries of the region and the vast area of cooperation in Europe and the step-by-step, consistent integration into an open international system, which is an essential condition for economic prosperity and the creation of a society based on justice and democracy.

The realization of these purposes and principles require the concerted efforts of all interested States and international organizations. In order to establish peace, stability, confidence and security in the region, it is necessary to:

1. Restore the sovereignty of States within their internationally recognized borders, ensure the territorial integrity of States, and guarantee the safe return of refugees to their homes;

2. Respect, at all times and everywhere, for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of ethnic minorities;

3. Cooperate in the development of transport and other communications and ensure their security;

4. Ensure all-round cooperation in the protection of the unique natural heritage of the Caucasus, eliminate man-made damage and the consequences of natural disasters and armed conflicts and develop international tourism;

5. Promote ethnic and religious tolerance, a careful and respectful attitude towards the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Caucasus, which is in this respect one of the richest areas in the world;

6. Actively support international projects and attract and encourage foreign investment.

The goals and objectives formulated in this Declaration can be achieved with the unconditional commitment of all States of the region to all the interrelated universal principles listed above.

This Declaration is open for signature by all interested States and international organizations that accept the provisions contained in it.

DONE at Tbilisi on 8 March 1996, in the Georgian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

For Georgia:

(Signed) E. SHEVARDNADZE
President of Georgia

For the Azerbaijani Republic:

(Signed) H. ALIYEV
President of the Azerbaijani Republic

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
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A/51/91
S/1996/238
3 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 33 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 1 April 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose the text of the Co-Chairmen's statement of the Summit of Peacemakers adopted on 13 March 1996 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. We ask that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations

(Signed) Madeleine K. ALBRIGHT
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Co-Chairmen's Statement of the Summit of Peacemakers, adopted on 13 March 1996 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

The Summit of Peacemakers has just concluded. This meeting took place at a time when the peace process is confronting serious threats. The Summit had three fundamental objectives: to enhance the peace process, to promote security and to combat terror. Accordingly, the participants here today:

- Express their full support for the Middle East peace process and their determination that this process continue in order to accomplish a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region;

- Affirm their determination to promote security and stability and to prevent the enemies of peace from achieving their ultimate objective of destroying the real opportunity for peace in the Middle East;

- Re-emphasize their strong condemnation of all acts of terror in all its abhorrent forms, whatever its motivation, and whoever its perpetrator, including recent terrorist attacks in Israel, consider them alien to the moral and spiritual values shared by all the peoples of the region and reaffirm their intention to stand staunchly against all such acts, and to urge all Governments to join them in this condemnation and opposition.

To that end, we decided:

(a) To support the Israeli-Palestinian agreements, the continuation of the negotiating process and to politically and economically reinforce it, to enhance the security situation for both, with special attention to the current and pressing economic needs of the Palestinians;

(b) To support continuation of the negotiating process in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement;

(c) To work together to promote security and stability in the region by developing effective and practical means of cooperation and further assistance;

(d) To promote coordination of efforts to stop acts of terror on bilateral, regional and international levels; ensuring that instigators of such acts are brought to justice; supporting efforts by all parties to prevent their territories from being used for terrorist purposes; and preventing terrorist organizations from engaging in recruitment, supplying arms, or fund-raising;

(e) To exert maximum efforts to identify and determine the sources of financing for these groups and to cooperate in cutting them off, and by providing training, equipment and other forms of support to those taking steps against groups using violence and terror to undermine peace, security or stability;

(f) To form a working group, open to all Summit participants, to prepare recommendations on how best to implement the decisions contained in this statement, through ongoing work, and to report to the participants within 30 days.

President Bill CLINTON
United States of America
Co-Chairman

President Hosni MUBARAK
Arab Republic of Egypt
Co-Chairman

APPENDIX

List of participants

(in the order in which they addressed the Summit)

Co-Chairmen: Egypt and United States of America

1. Russian Federation
2. Israel
3. Palestine
4. Jordan
5. Morocco
6. Turkey
7. France
8. Secretary-General of the United Nations
9. Bahrain
10. Italy
11. Norway
12. Germany
13. Spain
14. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
15. Ireland
16. Mauritania
17. Canada
18. Saudi Arabia
19. Kuwait
20. Yemen
21. Qatar
22. Oman
23. United Arab Emirates
24. Tunisia
25. Algeria
26. Japan
27. European Commission